

SAMPLE SYLLABUS
ONE SEMESTER COURSE

Week 1

Prologue

Origins of Language I: The Cave at Lascaux

Week 2

PART 01

Chapter 1: The Art of Language – Parts of Speech
Nouns / Verbs / Pronouns / Adjectives / Adverbs

Chapter 2: The Act of Reading: Noun / Verb / Image
N. Scott Momaday: “The Way to Rainy Mountain”¹
Language as Identity
Nouns and Images

Week 3

Chapter 3: The Act of Writing: What’s the Point? All About Thesis.
Thesis
Momaday’s Thesis

Assignment: 1st Essay

¹ **Alternative and/or Paired Readings:**

Helen Barolini. “Buried Alive By Language.” (Thematic Connection: Language & Identity)

James Baldwin. “What It Means To Be An American.” (Thematic Connection: Reflections on Cultural Identity)

Douglas Messerli. “20 Days in the City of Angels: The Twelfth Day (Getting Along).” (Thematic Correspondence: Community & Identity.)

Week 4

PART 02

Origins of Language II: Native American Myth

Chapter 4: The Art of Language - What Can Language Do
Parts of Speech 2 (Articles / Conjunctions / Prepositions)

Chapter 5: The Act of Reading
Images
Image as Evidence
Jack London: "The Eyewitness"²

Assignment: 1st Essay Due

Week 5

Chapter 6: Develop It!
Parts of an Essay
Developing Your Essay with Evidence

Assignment: 2nd Essay

Week 6

PART 03

Origins of Language III: Greek Myth

Chapter 7: The Art of Language – Parts of a Sentence
Subject / Predicate
Complete Sentence

Chapter 8: The Act of Reading: A Community of Readers
Diane Ackerman: "Modern Love"³

Assignment: 2nd Essay Due

² **Alternative and/or Paired Readings:**

Verlyn Klinkenborg. "Our Vanishing Night." (Thematic Connection:
Ursula LeGuin. "Hunger." (Thematic Connection: Neruda's Poem, "Macchu Picchu" and Great
Cities)

³ **Alternative and/or Paired Readings:**

Ursula LeGuin. "Hunger." (Thematic Connection: Sharing)
Steve Friedman. "A Moment of Silence." (Thematic Connection: Choice, Freedom)

Week 7

Chapter 9: The Act of Writing – Develop It!
Paragraph Unity

Assignment: 3rd Essay

Week 8

PART 04

Origins of Language IV: African Myth

Chapter 10: The Art of Language – The Ever-Changing Verb
The Base
Conjugation
Verb Agreement
Verb Tense
The Passive Verb: The Verb “To Be”
Active vs. Passive Verbs

Chapter 11: The Act of Reading – Dialogue with the Text
Lewis Carroll: *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland*⁴
Dialogue with the Text
From Dialogue to Analysis

Assignment: 3rd Essay Due

Week 9

Chapter 12: The Act of Writing – From Dialogue to Analysis to Essay
Freewriting
Thesis Development
From Dialogue to Analysis to Essay

Assignment: 4th Essay

⁴ **Alternative and/or Paired Readings:**

Ursula LeGuin. “World-Making.” (Thematic Connection: Imagination)

Pauline Kael. . “Why are the Movies so Bad? or, The Numbers.” (Thematic Connection: Art & Authenticity)

Week 10

PART 05

Origins of Language V: Australian Myth

Chapter 13: The Art of Language: Punctuation
What is Punctuation?
Punctuation Marks

Chapter 14: The Act of Reading: Quote / Paraphrase / Summary
John Seabrook: "Renaissance Pears"⁵

Assignment: 4th Essay Due

Week 11

Chapter 15: The Act of Writing: Dialogue with the Reader
Writing As Dialogue

Assignment: 5th Essay

Week 12

PART 06

Origins of Language VI: Asian Myth

Chapter 16: The Art of Language: Making the Sentence Work Right
Independent Clauses
Run-ons
Comma Splices

Chapter 17: The Act of Reading: Essay as Argument
William Manchester, "Okinawa, The Bloodiest Battle of All"⁶
The Act of Reading: Essay as Argument
How Your Thesis Forms Your Argument

Assignment: 5th Essay Due

⁵ **Alternative and/or Paired Readings:**

Octavio Paz. "Day of the Dead." (Thematic Connection: Culture, Its Artifacts & Its Rituals)

James Baldwin. "What It Means To Be An American." (Thematic Connection: Culture, Its Artifacts, and Its History)

⁶ **Alternative and/or Paired Readings:**

Steve Friedman. "A Moment of Silence." (Thematic Correspondence: War & Change)

Douglas Messorli. "20 Days in the City of Angels: The Twelfth Day (Getting Along)." (Thematic Correspondence: Conflict & Violence)

Week 13

Chapter 18: The Act of Writing: Language Expresses Identity
Dialogue of Text with Text(s)
Thesis and Argument
Thesis and Essay Development

Assignment: 6th Essay (Research)

Week 14:

Origins of Language VII: A Scientific Explanation

Review. Preparation for Exam

Assignment: 6th Essay Due